SUPERMAN
DC
NATIONAL COMICS
15¢
BATMAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
JUNE
NO. 222
HERE THEY COME!
R.I.P.
ONE OF THEM IS DEAD-- BUT WHICH ONE?
DEAD TILL PROVEN ALIVE
5-437
THE CLUE IS ON THEIR ALBUM COVER!

NOW!

Unchanged men in a changing land.
Out of step, out of place and desperately out of time.
THE WILD BUNCH
HOLDEN BORGNINE RYAN O'BRIEN OATES SANCHEZ

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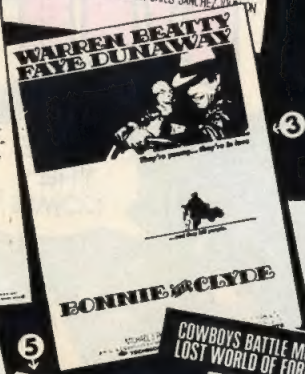

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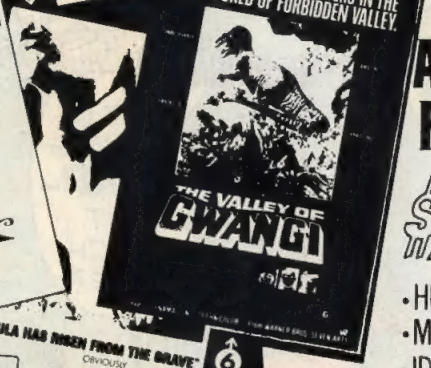

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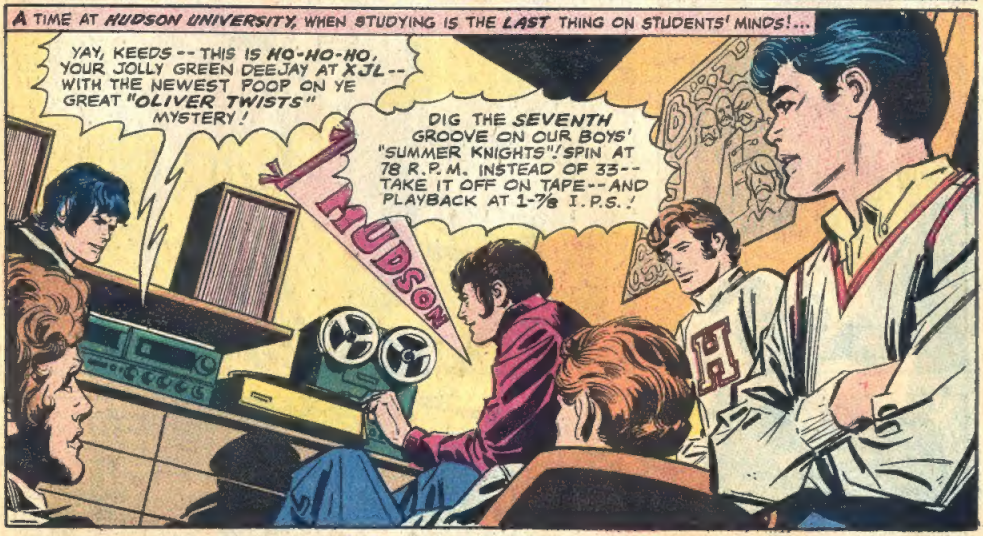
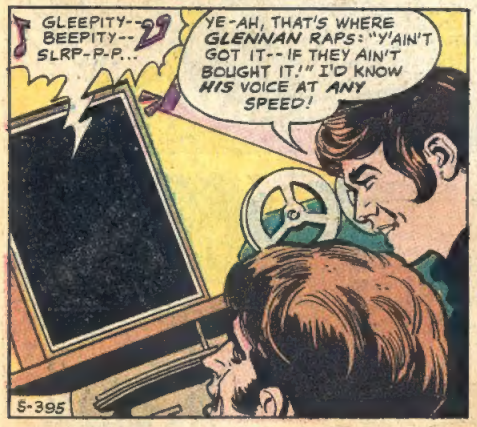
BACK TOGETHER AGAIN!

BATMAN and ROBIN

"DEAD... TILL PROVEN ALIVE!"

STORY: FRANK ROBBINS • ART: IRV NOVICK & DICK GIORDANO


A TIME AT HUDSON UNIVERSITY, WHEN STUDYING IS THE LAST THING ON STUDENTS' MINDS!...
YAY, KEEDS -- THIS IS HO-HO-HO, YOUR JOLLY GREEN DEEJAY AT XJL -- WITH THE NEWEST POOP ON YE GREAT "OLIVER TWISTS" MYSTERY!
DIG THE SEVENTH GROOVE ON OUR BOYS' "SUMMER KNIGHTS"! SPIN AT 78 R.P.M. INSTEAD OF 33 -- TAKE IT OFF ON TAPE -- AND PLAYBACK AT 1-7/8 I.P.S.!
HUDSON
H


GLEEPITY-- BEEPITY-- SLRP-P-P...
YE-AH, THAT'S WHERE GLENNAN RAPS: "Y'AIN'T GOT IT -- IF THEY AIN'T BOUGHT IT!" I'D KNOW HIS VOICE AT ANY SPEED!
5-395

EVEN DICK (ROBIN) GRAYSON IS SWEPT UP IN THE CURRENT CAMPUS FEVER AS THE PLAYBACK MOVES AT ONE AND SEVEN-EIGHTH INCH PER SECOND...
SURE WAS A BALL, SAUL -- TOO BAD IT'S OVER!
HMM... WHO ELSE COULD GLENNAN MEAN -- BUT SAUL CARTWRIGHT?

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AT LAST, DICK THE GREAT SKEPTIC, BREAKS DOWN! NOW DO YOU BELIEVE SAUL'S DEAD?
WE INTERRUPT WITH A LATE BLAST!
THE "TWISTS" ARE COMING TO GOTHAM CITY-- MAYBE IN A PINK SUBMARINE-- TO PROVE THAT SAUL IS ALIVE AND WELL, AND LIVING IN OL' LUNNON TOWN!
WOW! IF "SAUL" IS ALIVE... AND IF ONLY THE "TWISTS" COULD APPEAR HERE AT HUDSON U!...
DICK! YOUR GUARDIAN, BRUCE WAYNE, IS A BIG WHEEL IN GOTHAM-- MAYBE HE COULD SWING IT AS A FAVOR FOR YOU?
AS "DICK GRAYSON" I HAVE TO PLAY IT COOL, BUT AS ROBIN -- I'M REALLY INTRIGUED BY THIS MYSTERY!
LATER, AT WAYNE FOUNDATION, WHERE BRUCE (BATMAN) WAYNE HANDLES HIS "COVER" ENTERPRISES...
AS A MAJOR STOCKHOLDER IN EDEN RECORDS, THIS PUBLICITY HAS BEEN BOOM BUSINESS, BUT AS BATMAN-- I DON'T WANT TO BE PARTY TO A HOAX!
GOTHAM NEWS
ALIVE... OR DEAD?
SAUL CARTWRIGHT
RRING!!
I DON'T LIKE TO INFLUENCE-PEDDLE, FELLAS-- BUT I'LL GIVE IT A TRY!
AS DICK RELAYS HIS CLASSMATES' REQUEST...
I'D LOVE TO, DICK-- BUT YOU KNOW THE FOUR "ORPHANS" ARE AN INDEPENDENT BUNCH! THEY DON'T "PUSH" EASILY...
COULD YOU INVITE THEM TO BE YOUR GUESTS WHILE THEY'RE IN GOTHAM?
2

THEN, GIVE ME A CRACK AT PERSUADING THEM! I'LL COME DOWN SPECIAL FOR THE WEEK END...
IT'LL MEAN RE-OPENING WAYNE MANOR-- NO ROOM HERE IN THE PENTHOUSE FOR THOSE MAD MODS! OKAY, WILL DO...
THERE'S AN ADDED INCENTIVE WITH THE "TWISTS" UNDER ONE ROOF--AS BATMAN, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO SPOT WHETHER SAUL IS A PHONEY!
T-DAY! PANDEMONIUM REIGNS AT GOTHAM AIRPORT AS THE ELUSIVE TWISTS MAKE THEIR FIRST PUBLIC APPEARANCE IN OVER A YEAR!...
EEE EEEEE! HERE THEY COME! ORPHANS-- WE LUV YA-- AND SAUL'S MEMORY!
STAY CLOSE TO YOUR TV-SCREENS, FOLKS! OUR ZOOM-LENS BRINGS YOU--LIVE-- A PORE-BY-PORE CLOSEUP OF THE ONE AND ONLY...
3

...SAUL CARTWRIGHT!
HI, FOLKS! SORRY TO DISAPPOINT MY FAITHFUL "MOURNERS!" BUT-- AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE...
WHILE PARKED AWAY FROM THE SWIRLING MOB, BEHIND A HANGAR...
SURE LOOKS LIKE SAUL-- SOUNDS LIKE HIM! BUT IS HE--?
DUNNO, DICK--PLASTIC-SURGERY AND VOICE-TRAINING CAN DO WONDERS--IF HE'S A STAND-IN FOR THE RUMORED "DEAD" SAUL!
AS A PROTECTIVE POLICE CORDON LEADS THE HARRIED TWISTS THROUGH THEIR ARDENT FANS...
WHICH WE MAY FIND OUT SOON, DICK! COMMISSIONER GORDON HAS EXTENDED MY INVITATION TO THEM...
THEY'RE ALL YOURS NOW, BRUCE! TAKE 'EM AWAY!
THANKS, COMMISSIONER GORDON! WAYNE MANOR WILL GIVE THEM THE PEACE AND PRIVACY THEY'LL NEED BETWEEN PUBLIC APPEARANCES!
AFTER RUNNING AN ADORING, SCREAMING GAUNTLET... THEY ENTER THE SERENITY AND QUIET OF STAID WAYNE MANOR!...
COO! POSH LIKE BUCKING'AM PALACE, EH, LADS?
GLENNAN, YOU ALWAYS WERE A PUSH-OVER FOR POSH! WEREN'T HE, HAL?
HO! AND YOU'RE SUCH A HAVEN FOR AUSTERITY, BENJI? RIGHT, SAUL?
BRR-R! REMINDS ME OF A BLOODY-- MAUSOLEUM!
ESPRIT
Prarie
4

FUNNY REACTION!? THESE BOYS COULD BUY BUCKINGHAM PALACE!
SAUL TALKS LIKE HE'S JUST RISEN FROM THE GRAVE!
FORGIVE THE PUT-DOWN ON YOUR DIGS, MR. WAYNE--DICK! BUT THIS "DEATH-ROLE" MY NUTTY FANS HAVE DREAMED UP, IS GETTING TO ME!
AND WHILE YOU SEEM THE REGULAR SORT--YOU MIGHT HAVE DOUBTS TOO!
SO LET'S CLEAR THE RECORD, RIGHT NOW! WHEN MY THREE PARTNERS TOOK OFF FOR THE HIMALAYAS A YEAR AGO, TO DO THEIR THING...
...IT WASN'T TO GO INTO MOURNING OVER MY "DEATH" IN A CYCLE ACCIDENT" IN LONDON!
DID THEY EXPECT ME TO MAKE SOLO APPEARANCES WHILE THE BACKBONE OF OUR GROUP WAS AWAY?
I JUST DROPPED OUT OF SIGHT TO DREAM UP NEW ARRANGEMENTS AND STUFF, TILL THEY RETURNED!
WE GET THE MESSAGE, SAUL--NOBODY'LL GET ON YOUR BACK HERE!
ALFRED WILL SHOW YOU TO YOUR QUARTERS!
HE GAVE ME JUST WHAT I WANTED! C'MON, BRUCE--I'LL NEED YOUR ASSIST!
QUICKLY EXITING INTO THE SECRET BATCAVE ELEVATOR...
SAUL GAVE YOU--WHAT? JUST WHAT ARE YOU UP TO, DICK?
UP TO DISCOVERING THE TRUTH--IF THAT CHANDELIER I BUGGED, PICKED UP HIS VOICE CLEARLY!
5

IN THE BATCAVE, DICK SWITCHES ON A TAPE RECORDER...
THE EAR CAN BE FOOLED, BRUCE--BUT PLAYING SAUL'S VOICE BACK THROUGH THIS SONO-ANALYZER PRODUCES A SONOGRAM--A VOICE-PATTERN PRINT AS DISTINCTIVE AS A FINGERPRINT!
BUT WHAT COMPARISON DO YOU HAVE...?
THIS EARLY RECORDING OF THE AUTHENTIC SAUL CARTWRIGHT'S VOICE--LOOK!
OUR PRESENT GUEST IS A--FRAUD! THEY'RE BOTH--DIFFERENT!
DIFFERENT, YES--BUT SO IS THE SOURCE!
THE--SOURCE?
ONE IS A SINGING VOICE--THE OTHER SPEAKING! THEY WOULD HAVE UNLIKE PATTERNS!
SO YOU'VE PROVED NOTHING! UNLESS--YOU CAN GET SAUL'S PRESENT SINGING VOICE!
LATER, AT DINNER...
PLANNING TO RECORD OUR DEATHLESS WORDS FOR POSTERITY, SAUL?
ON MY MINI-RECORDER? UH-UH, MR. WAYNE--THIS IS MY INSEPARABLE COMPANION IN CASE OF SUDDEN INSPIRATION! THEN, I SING INTO IT!
THEN, IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT...
SAUL GOT "INSPIRED" SEVERAL TIMES DURING DINNER--HIS TAPE HAS JUST THE VOICE I NEED ON IT--A SINGING ONE!
BUT IN CASE I SHOULD BE SPOTTED--BETTER THAT ROBIN TAKES THE RAP!
HE DIDN'T EVEN STIR!
NOW, WITH LUCK--I CAN COPY THIS OFF--AND REPLACE IT WITHOUT SAUL BEING ANY THE WISER!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
6

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MODEL MOTORING

SUDDENLY...
KCHOK
HIS HEAD REELING, ROBIN CLUTCHES DESPERATELY BEHIND HIM AT HIS UNSEEN ASSAILANT...
...AND DRAGS HIM DOWN WITH HIM AS HE FEEBLY FIGHTS BACK...
LEGGO-- BLAST YOU!
KRANG
THUMP
KTHUMP
MOMENTS LATER...
THAT COMMOTION OUT HERE? WHAT CAUSED...
ROBIN!?

AS BRUCE LIFTS THE LIMP FORM...
STILL BREATHING GOT TO GET HIM OUT OF SIGHT BEFORE...
'EY! WHO'S TRIPPIN' THE LIGHT-FANTASTIC OUT HERE? YOU, SAUL?
NOT ME, GLENNAN-- I'M NO SLEEP-WALKER! MAYBE HAL? BENJI?
CLOSE--BUT THEY DIDN'T SPOT US! THIS NEEDS THE PRIVACY OF THE BATCAVE...
SECONDS LATER...
WHAT HAPPENED, ROBIN?
TRIED TO GET SAUL'S RECORDER-- THEN SOMEONE CLOBBERED ME-- FROM BEHIND! I-I LOST!
MUST HAVE BEEN SAUL-- WOKE AND FOLLOWED ME!
BUT WHY HIS DESPERATE INTEREST TO GUARD THAT RECORDER? UNLESS HE'S TRYING TO HIDE HIS VOICE...
...THAT COULD PROVE HE'S NOT "SAUL"?
THE NEXT EVENING AS THEY DRESS FOR DINNER...
THEY ALL CAME DOWN TO BREAKFAST LOOKING INNOCENT AS LAMBS! AND "SAUL" STILL HAD HIS RECORDER!
THEY MUST BE IN CAHOOTS, DICK--BUT THERE'S ANOTHER WAY TO GET HIS "SINGING" VOICE!
AS YOU'LL SOON SEE ...
AFTER A CURIOUSLY TERSE DINNER...
EVERYONE REMAIN SEATED--I HAVE A SURPRISE!
ALFRED-- WOULD YOU TURN OUT THE LIGHTS, PLEASE?
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.
8

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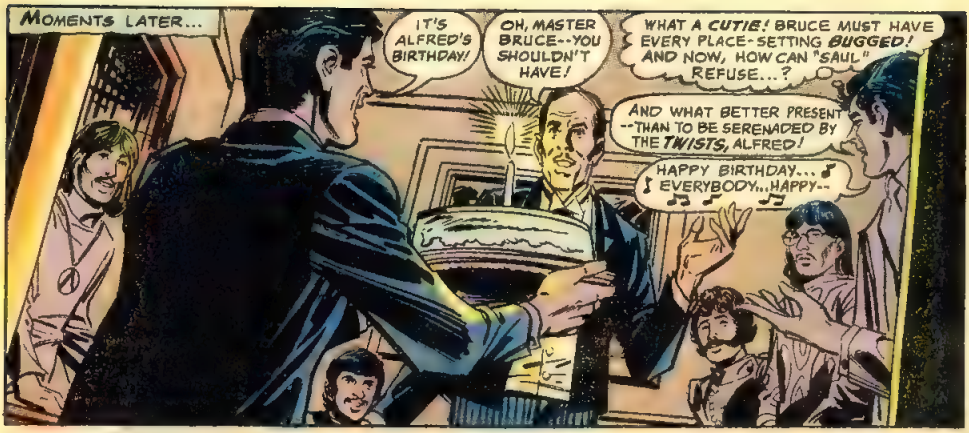
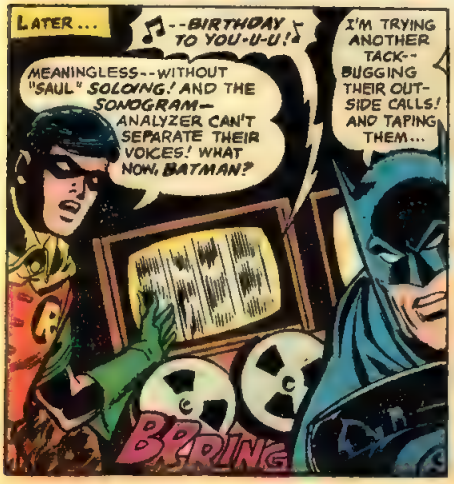
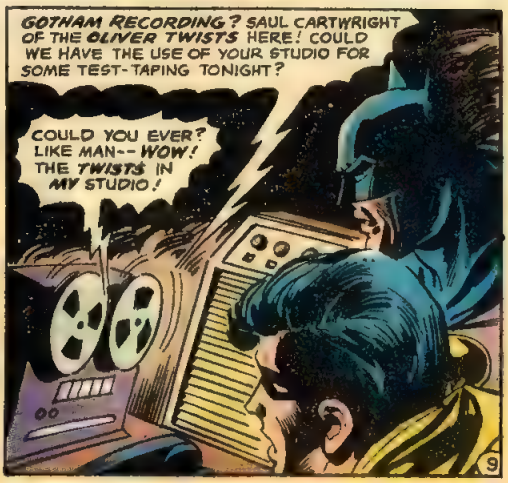

MOMENTS LATER...
IT'S ALFRED'S BIRTHDAY!
OH, MASTER BRUCE--YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE!
WHAT A CUTIE! BRUCE MUST HAVE EVERY PLACE-SETTING BUGGED! AND NOW, HOW CAN "SAUL" REFUSE...?
AND WHAT BETTER PRESENT --THAN TO BE SERENADED BY THE TWISTS, ALFRED!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY... EVERYBODY...HAPPY--

FOR A BRIEF MOMENT, SAUL HESITATES... AND THEN, AS AT AN UNSEEN SIGNAL...
WE'VE BEEN SEPARATED TOO LONG, GANG...
LIKE YE-AH! IT'S TIME...
...WE SANG...
...TOGETHER!
HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DEAR ALFRED--HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU-U-U!


LATER...
--BIRTHDAY TO YOU-U-U!
I'M TRYING ANOTHER TACK--BUGGING THEIR OUT-SIDE CALLS! AND TAPING THEM...
MEANINGLESS--WITHOUT "SAUL" SOLOING! AND THE SONOGRAM-- ANALYZER CAN'T SEPARATE THEIR VOICES! WHAT NOW, BATMAN?
BRRING


GOTHAM RECORDING? SAUL CARTWRIGHT OF THE OLIVER TWISTS HERE! COULD WE HAVE THE USE OF YOUR STUDIO FOR SOME TEST-TAPING TONIGHT?
COULD YOU EVER? LIKE MAN--WOW! THE TWISTS IN MY STUDIO!

OH, BUT SAUL -- ALL MY ENGINEERS HAVE LEFT! I WAS JUST CLOSING...
DON'T NEED 'EM, FRIEND -- WE DO OUR OWN! JUST LEAVE THEY KEY UNDER THE ENTRANCE-MAT -- WE'LL MAKE IT WORTH YOUR WHILE!
JUST THE BREAK WE NEEDED, ROBIN! C'MON WE'RE SETTING UP A PRIVATE RECORDING DATE -- TO GET A TAPE OF "SAUL" SINGING!
REACTIVATING THE BATMOBILE, THE DYNAMIC DUO RACES AGAINST AN UNKNOWN DEADLINE! THEN, PARKING OUT OF SIGHT...
UNDER THE ENTRANCE-MAT, HE SAID...
SIMPLER THAN "PICKING" OUR WAY IN, BATMAN! WE OPEN UP -- SLIP THE KEY BACK UNDER THE MAT...
...AND RELOCK FROM THE INSIDE! THEY'LL NEVER GUESS WE'RE HIDING HERE...
GOOD PLAN, ROBIN -- EXCEPT...
EXCEPT -- WHAT?
SOMEONE ELSE..
BAM
BAM
BAM
THOMP
...GOT THAT IDEA FIRST!

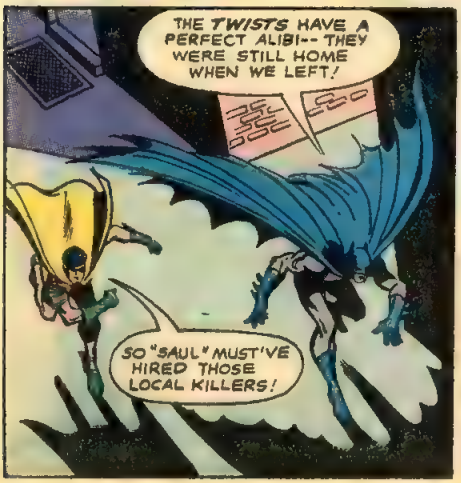
NOW--WHILE THEY'RE STILL BLINDED BY THEIR OWN GUN-FLASHES...
CLICK!
...WE CAST FURTHER LIGHT ON THE SITUATION!
I DIG! SAY NO MORE, BATMAN--WE TAKE 'EM APART!
KRASH!
KPOW!
CHUNG!
THEY CALL THIS--A MIKE-BOOM!
THE AUDITION IS OVER, FRIEND!
LET'S MAKE THIS IN STEREO! I'VE BALANCED THE LEFT CHANNEL...
...NOW FOR THE RIGHT!

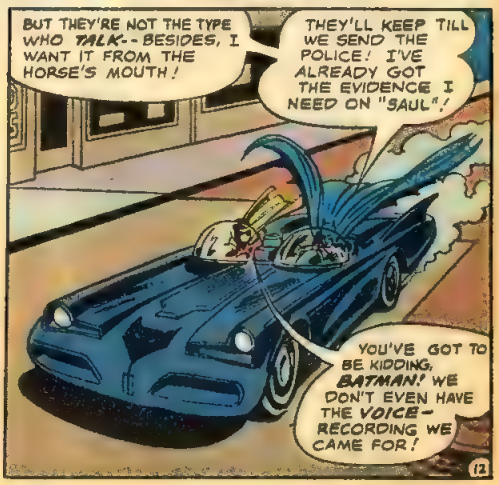
LOOKS LIKE "SAUL" HAD HIS OWN SURPRISE PARTY WAITING FOR US!
BUT HOW DID YOU GROOVE IT WAS A TRAP, BATMAN?

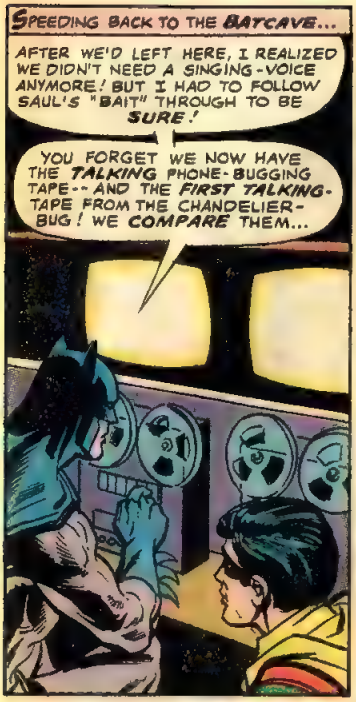
THIS KEY-- WAS THE "KEY"!
DON'T PUT ME ON, BATMAN! THE NAKED EYE CAN'T SPOT FINGER-PRINTS--AND THOSE SHARP THUGS ARE WEARING GLOVES! SO HOW...?

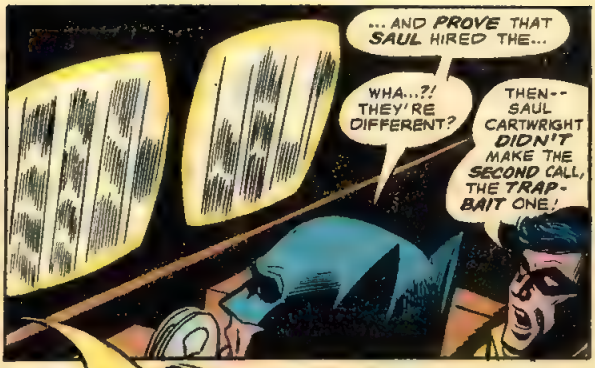
TRUE, BUT WHEN THE STUDIO-OWNER LEFT-- LOCKING THE DOOR LIKE THIS...

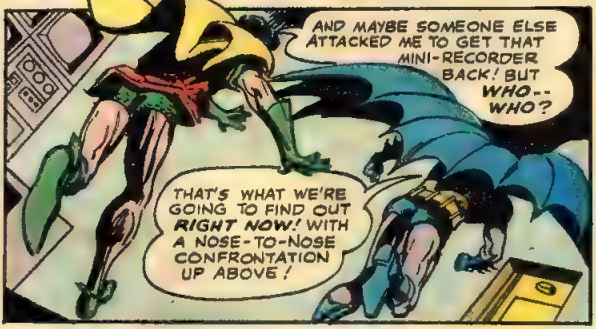
...HE AUTOMATICALLY HAD TO PUT THE KEY DOWN LIKE THIS! WITH THE GROOVED-END TOWARD THE DOOR!
BUT WHEN WE FOUND IT-- IT WAS REVERSED! INDICATING IT WAS REPLACED FROM THE INSIDE!
SO YOU KNEW SOMEONE GOT HERE BEFORE US!


THE TWISTS HAVE A PERFECT ALIBI-- THEY WERE STILL HOME WHEN WE LEFT!
SO "SAUL" MUST'VE HIRED THOSE LOCAL KILLERS!

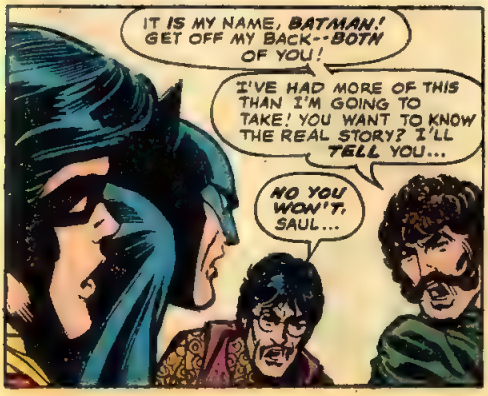

BUT THEY'RE NOT THE TYPE WHO TALK-- BESIDES, I WANT IT FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH!
THEY'LL KEEP TILL WE SEND THE POLICE! I'VE ALREADY GOT THE EVIDENCE I NEED ON "SAUL"!
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING, BATMAN! WE DON'T EVEN HAVE THE VOICE-RECORDING WE CAME FOR!

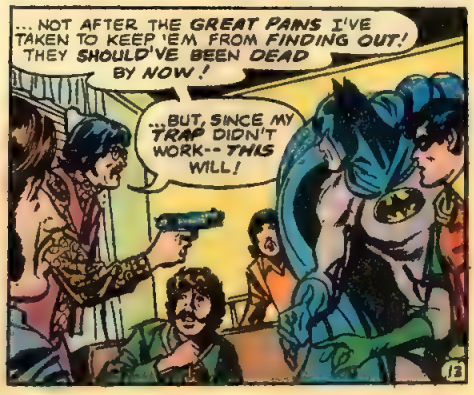

SPEEDING BACK TO THE BATCAVE...
AFTER WE'D LEFT HERE, I REALIZED WE DIDN'T NEED A SINGING-VOICE ANYMORE! BUT I HAD TO FOLLOW SAUL'S "BAIT" THROUGH TO BE SURE!
YOU FORGET WE NOW HAVE THE TALKING PHONE-BUGGING TAPE--AND THE FIRST TALKING-TAPE FROM THE CHANDELIER-BUG! WE COMPARE THEM...


...AND PROVE THAT SAUL HIRED THE...
WHA...?! THEY'RE DIFFERENT?
THEN--SAUL CARTWRIGHT DIDN'T MAKE THE SECOND CALL, THE TRAP-BAIT ONE!

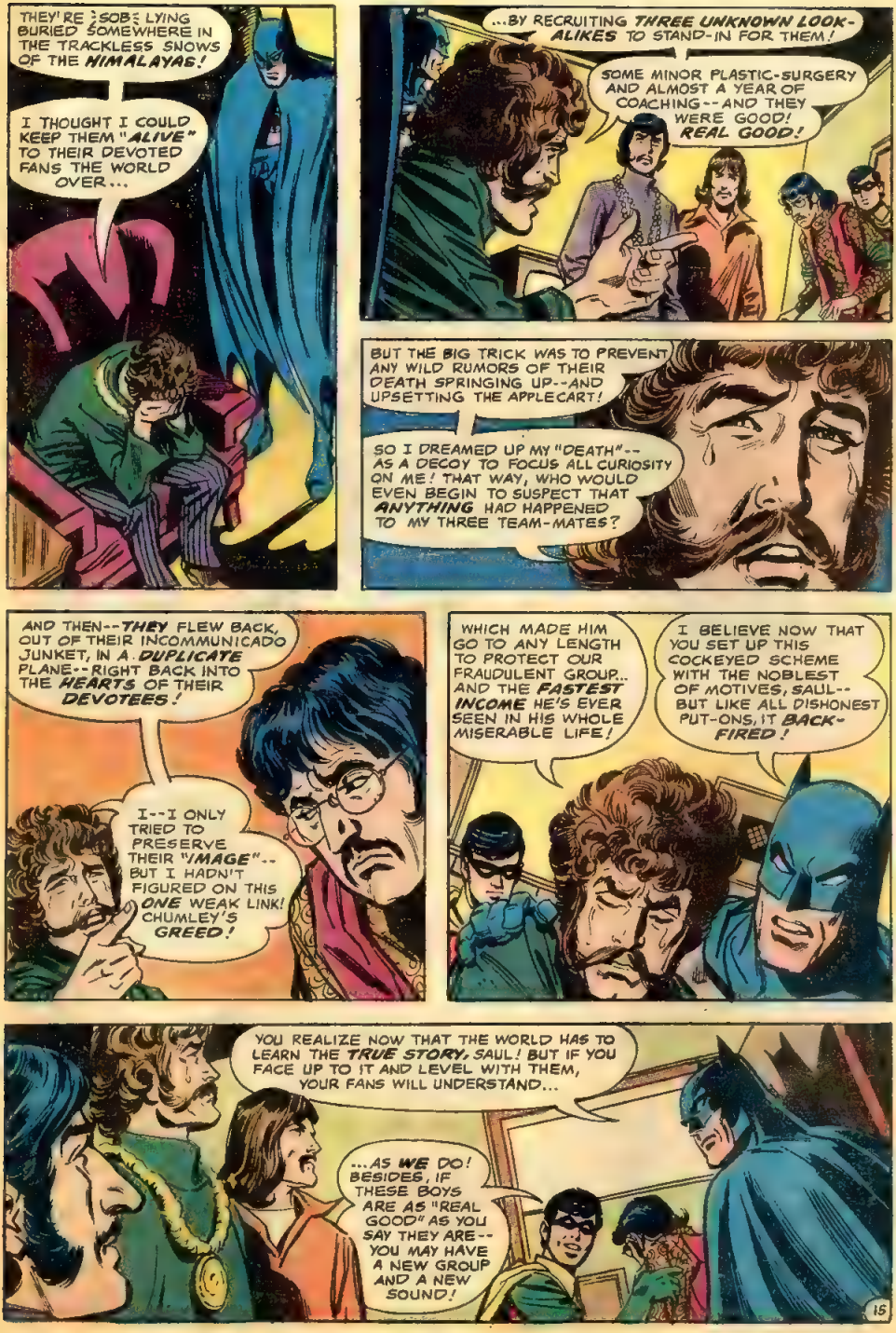

AND MAYBE SOMEONE ELSE ATTACKED ME TO GET THAT MINI-RECORDER BACK! BUT WHO--WHO?
THAT'S WHAT WE'RE GOING TO FIND OUT RIGHT NOW! WITH A NOSE-TO-NOSE CONFRONTATION UP ABOVE!

A SCENE OF APPARENTLY UNTROUBLED, AT-HOME BLISS GREETS THEM!
CHUCKLE...THEIR LATE SHOW SURE BEATS THE BBC, EH, BLOKES?
SAUL CARTWRIGHT! IF THAT'S YOUR REAL NAME...


IT IS MY NAME, BATMAN! GET OFF MY BACK--BOTH OF YOU!
I'VE HAD MORE OF THIS THAN I'M GOING TO TAKE! YOU WANT TO KNOW THE REAL STORY? I'LL TELL YOU...
NO YOU WON'T, SAUL...


...NOT AFTER THE GREAT PAINS I'VE TAKEN TO KEEP 'EM FROM FINDING OUT! THEY SHOULD'VE BEEN DEAD BY NOW!
...BUT, SINCE MY TRAP DIDN'T WORK--THIS WILL!

NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D FREAK-OUT LIKE THIS, CHUMLEY...
...BUT I WON'T GO ALONG WITH IT!
KICHANG!
HOWTCH!
SOMETHING TELLS ME I OWE THIS TO YOU FOR LAST NIGHT!
WHAT DID YOU JUST CALL "GLENNAN," SAUL?
CHUMLEY--HIS REAL NAME! JUST LIKE THIS IS REALLY PRITCHARD AND GILBEY!
I'M NOT THE PHONY--THEY ARE!
WHAT?!
YOU HEARD ME RIGHT! THESE LADS ARE THE FRAUDS--THE PUT-ONS! BECAUSE GLENNAN ;SOB; BENJI... HAL... MY GOOD OLD BUDDIES...
--THEY'RE DEAD! KILLED LAST YEAR IN A CRASH OF A PRIVATE JET THAT WAS TAKING THEM TO GROOVE WITH THE MYSTERIES OF THE EAST!


THEY'RE SOBS LYING BURIED SOMEWHERE IN THE TRACKLESS SNOWS OF THE HIMALAYAS!
I THOUGHT I COULD KEEP THEM "ALIVE" TO THEIR DEVOTED FANS THE WORLD OVER...
...BY RECRUITING THREE UNKNOWN LOOK-ALIKES TO STAND-IN FOR THEM!
SOME MINOR PLASTIC-SURGERY AND ALMOST A YEAR OF COACHING--AND THEY WERE GOOD! REAL GOOD!
BUT THE BIG TRICK WAS TO PREVENT ANY WILD RUMORS OF THEIR DEATH SPRINGING UP--AND UPSETTING THE APPLECART!
SO I DREAMED UP MY "DEATH"--AS A DECOY TO FOCUS ALL CURIOSITY ON ME! THAT WAY, WHO WOULD EVEN BEGIN TO SUSPECT THAT ANYTHING HAD HAPPENED TO MY THREE TEAM-MATES?
AND THEN--THEY FLEW BACK, OUT OF THEIR INCOMMUNICADO JUNKET, IN A DUPLICATE PLANE--RIGHT BACK INTO THE HEARTS OF THEIR DEVOTEES!
I--I ONLY TRIED TO PRESERVE THEIR "IMAGE"--BUT I HADN'T FIGURED ON THIS ONE WEAK LINK! CHUMLEY'S GREED!
WHICH MADE HIM GO TO ANY LENGTH TO PROTECT OUR FRAUDULENT GROUP... AND THE FASTEST INCOME HE'S EVER SEEN IN HIS WHOLE MISERABLE LIFE!
I BELIEVE NOW THAT YOU SET UP THIS COCKEYED SCHEME WITH THE NOBLEST OF MOTIVES, SAUL--BUT LIKE ALL DISHONEST PUT-ONS, IT BACK-FIRED!
YOU REALIZE NOW THAT THE WORLD HAS TO LEARN THE TRUE STORY, SAUL! BUT IF YOU FACE UP TO IT AND LEVEL WITH THEM, YOUR FANS WILL UNDERSTAND...
...AS WE DO! BESIDES, IF THESE BOYS ARE AS "REAL GOOD" AS YOU SAY THEY ARE--YOU MAY HAVE A NEW GROUP AND A NEW SOUND!

AND SO LIKE THE LEGENDARY BIRD, THE "PHOENIX"... A NEW SMASH TRIO RISES FROM THE ASHES OF THE OLD! A WEEK LATER AT HUDSON U...
Phoenix Trio Soul Party
YAY... SAUL!
YAY--PHOENIX! WE LUV YA!
16

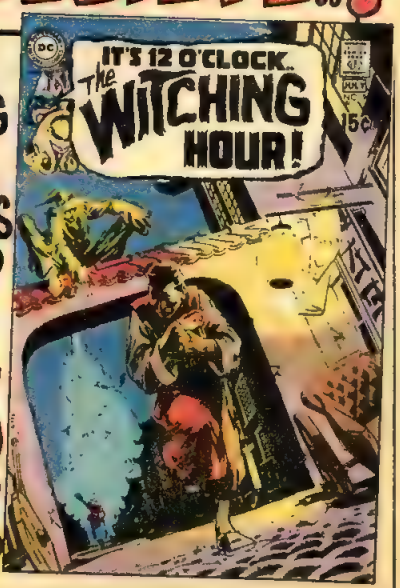
YOU DIDN'T DELIVER THE "GOODS" WE REQUESTED, DICK--BUT YOU SURE CAME UP WITH THE BIGGEST "TWIST" OF THE CENTURY!
AND JUST SO YOU DON'T COME UP WITH THE BIGGEST HEAD, GRAYSON...
JUST REMEMBER YOU OWE IT ALL TO--BATMAN AND ROBIN!
THE END.

WOULD YOU BELIEVE..?

STOP! THE NEW
GREEN LANTERN
CO-STARRING
GREEN ARROW
LET'S SEE YUH BE A HERO WITHOUT YOUR POWER RING!
IN THE HEART OF AMERICA A WAR ZONE!

TWO EXCITING DC GRABBERS TO HOLD YOU SPELL-BOUND!

ON SALE APRIL 9th - APRIL 16th



SO YOU WANT TO BE A CARTOONIST?

By Joe Kubert

K-316

During my years as a professional cartoonist, I have been approached by many people (in addition to receiving hundreds of letters) who want more than anything else to become a CARTOONIST for COMIC MAGAZINES. Many of the letters included sketches or samples from these aspirants along with inquiries concerning TPYE OF PAPER to be used, PAGE SIZE, PENS, INK, etc. Of course, without this rudimentary knowledge, any attempt at creating a cartoon-drawing becomes extremely difficult and frustrating. In response, this page will describe some of the basic materials and information as applied to the comic industry in general.

PAPER & SIZE

Original art work is very rarely done "same size" as shown in printed form. The original drawing should be HALF AGAIN or TWICE the size of the reduced copy. 10" x 15" (border-size) is the dimension used by our artists.

Paper should be 2-PLY, which is similar to a LIGHT CARDBOARD. Texture of paper can be KID FINISH (rough) or PLATE FINISH (smooth).

PENCILS

Preliminary sketches are done with a #2 or #3 pencil (lead). This enables you to erase for corrections without difficulty. PENCIL DRAWINGS are merely the first step toward a completed illustration.

ERASERS

NON-SMEARING is the desired quality in an eraser. Test your eraser on a piece of scrap paper BEFORE you use it on a drawing.

PEN, BRUSHES, INK

After completing your pencil DRAWING, it is essential to GO OVER the illustration with INDIA INK. The reason is that printing processes used to produce comic books demand a CLEAN, SHARP, BLACK, LINEAR drawing. If an ink line is TOO GREY, it may not reproduce.

The types of PENS and BRUSHES vary, depending on one's own personal inclination. Pens may be FLEXIBLE (to give a thick and thin line) or STIFF.

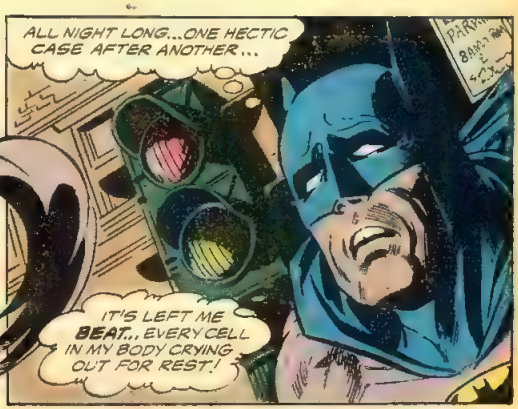
Brushes will vary in size (#3 water-color sable brush is most generally used). After "inking", the pencil sketch is erased, leaving only the pen-brush-ink illustration.

These are the PRIMARY ESSENTIALS concerning material and information needed to begin to learn about cartooning. Of course, the FIRST prerequisites are: A STRONG DESIRE; CONSTANT PRACTICE; STUDY OF ART IN GENERAL, COMPOSITION and FIGURE-DRAWING in particular.

There are NO SHORTCUTS. Don't let your first attempts frustrate you—every professional cartoonist started in the SAME MANNER, as you are beginning right now.

Remember that all the combined talents of National Periodical Publications will try to encourage your efforts as much as possible—but it's really up to YOU! That is, if YOU WANT TO BE A CARTOONIST!

SLOWLY, SILENTLY, A GRAY-AND-BLACK SHAPE DRIFTS ALONG THE PRE-DAWN STREETS...
... A FAMILIAR, YET SPOOKY SIGHT IN GOTHAM CITY! BUT WAIT...TONIGHT THERE IS A DIFFERENCE--!

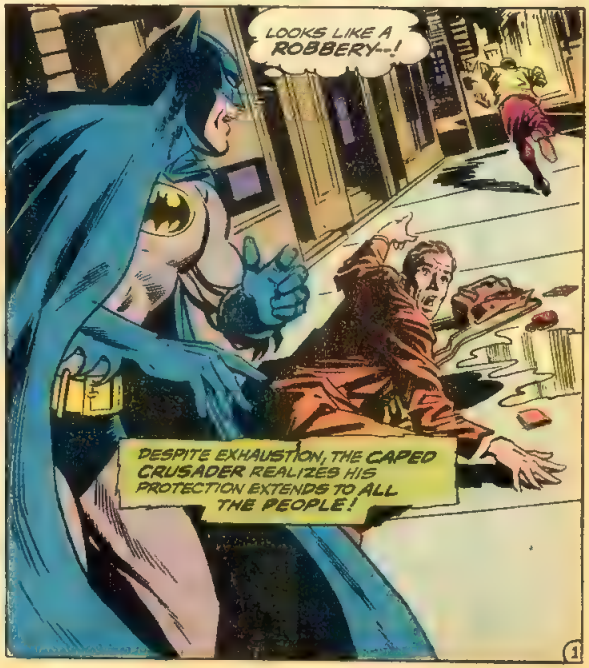


AS HUSHED STREETS ECHO THE DISTANT SOUNDS, THE

BATMAN

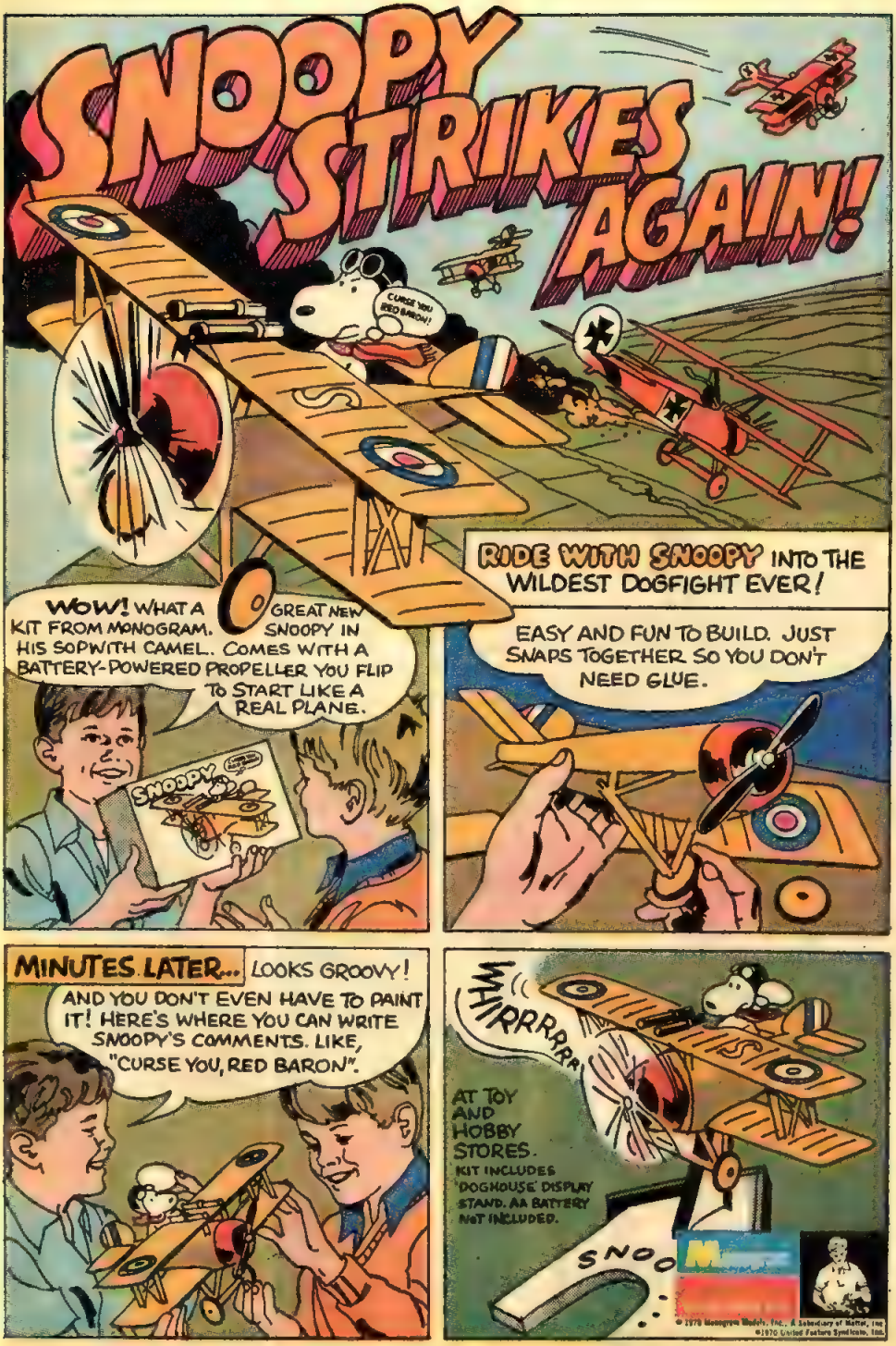
FIGHTS FATIGUE WITH EVERY STEP AS HE HEADS FOR THE WARM HEARTH OF HOME! WHO WOULD BLAME HIM FOR IGNORING THE...

"CASE of NO CONSEQUENCE!"



THE VICTIM'S A DEAF-MUTE--USING SIGN LANGUAGE TO TELL ME HE'S A--
--PHOTOGRAPHER! THIEF STOLE WALLET AND CAMERA! CAMERA ONLY MEANS OF LIVELIHOOD! NEED IT BACK!
NORMAL POLICE ROUTINE COULD PROCESS THIS! I'M ALL IN--IS IT WORTH IT TO PURSUE A SMALL-TIME MUGGER?
OF COURSE IT IS! THE DAY A CASE IS TOO SMALL FOR THE BATMAN IS THE DAY I HANG UP MY COWL!
TRAINED EYES FAN ACROSS THE SCENE... AND A CALCULATING BRAIN ARRIVES AT SWIFT DEDUCTIONS...
THE THIEF KNOCKED SOME DEVELOPING FLUID ON THE GROUND AND STEPPED IN IT...
2

WAIT... RIGHT... HERE!
DEVELOPING FLUID GLOWS YELLOW UNDER THE BATMAN'S ULTRA-VIOLET LIGHT...
...AND A TELLTALE TRAIL IS FOLLOWED...
THE MUGGER STOPPED RUNNING HERE-- HIS FOOTPRINTS ARE CLOSER TOGETHER!
SHOULD CATCH UP TO HIM SOON... IF MY FEET HOLD OUT...
US AIL
UH-OH! TRAIL'S STARTING TO FADE-- FLUID WEARING OFF!
I'LL HAVE TO TRAIL HIM... BLIND!
HE'S EITHER HEADING HOME... OR SOMEWHERE TO SPEND HIS LOOT! CHANCES ARE--
THERE'S AN ALL-NIGHT POOL HALL NEAR HERE!
I'LL GO THROUGH THE BACK ENTRANCE-- SAVE ME A LOT OF TIME... AND ENERGY!
CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING
3


SNOOPY STRIKES AGAIN!
CURSE YOU RED BARON!
RIDE WITH SNOOPY INTO THE WILDEST DOGFIGHT EVER!
WOW! WHAT A GREAT NEW KIT FROM MONOGRAM. SNOOPY IN HIS SOPWITH CAMEL. COMES WITH A BATTERY-POWERED PROPELLER YOU FLIP TO START LIKE A REAL PLANE.
SNOOPY
EASY AND FUN TO BUILD. JUST SNAPS TOGETHER SO YOU DON'T NEED GLUE.
MINUTES LATER... LOOKS GROOVY!
AND YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE TO PAINT IT! HERE'S WHERE YOU CAN WRITE SNOOPY'S COMMENTS. LIKE, "CURSE YOU, RED BARON".
WHIRRRRRR
AT TOY AND HOBBY STORES.
KIT INCLUDES 'DOGHOUSE' DISPLAY STAND. AA BATTERY NOT INCLUDED.
SNOO
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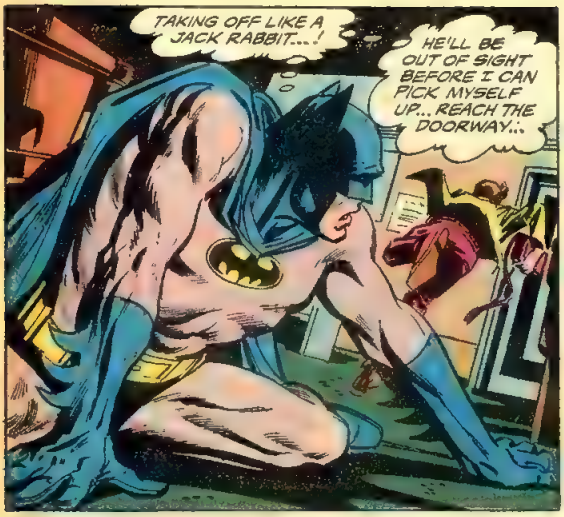
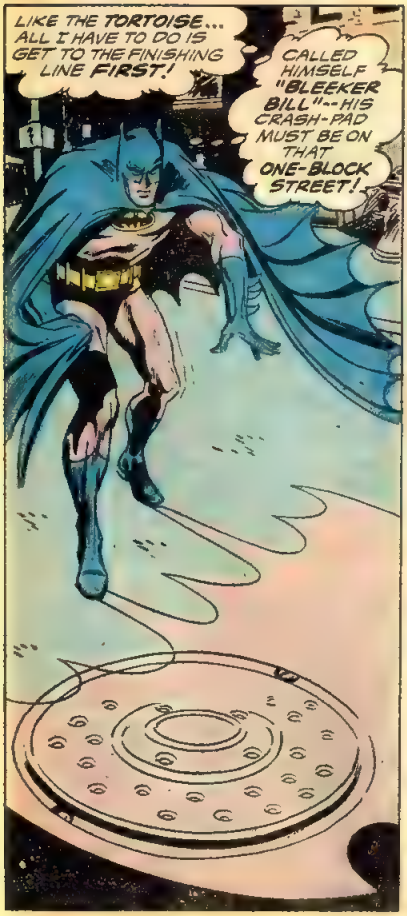
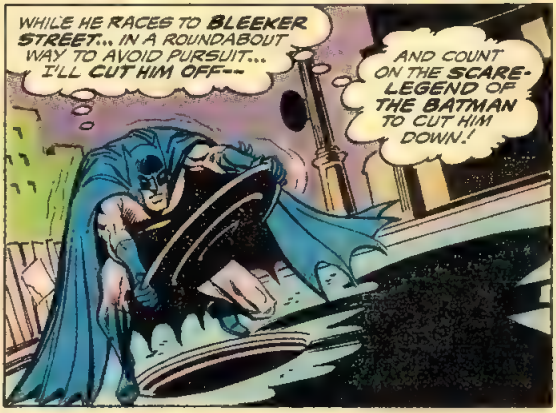
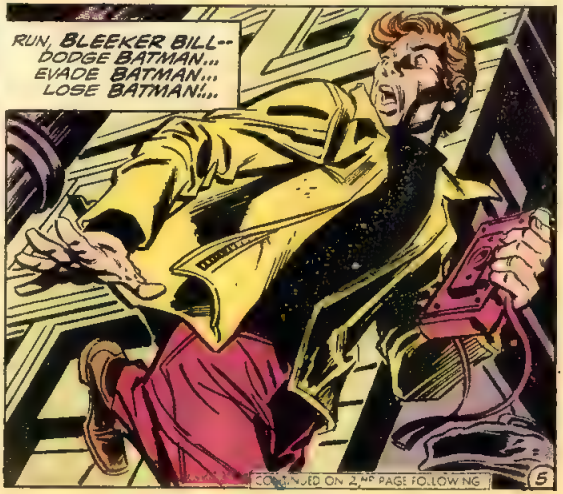
RACK 'EM UP AND WATCH OUT, FELLAS--BLEEKER BILL'S BEEN ROLLING ALL NIGHT! HA! HA!
B-BILL... B-BEHIND YA...!
TH-THE B-BATMAN!
THAT RUN ACROSS THE ROOM ; PANT ; TOOK THE STEAM OUT OF MY PUNCH...
YOU WON'T TAKE ME, BATMAN...
REFLEXES... UH... SLOW...
4




LIKE THE TORTOISE... ALL I HAVE TO DO IS GET TO THE FINISHING LINE FIRST!
CALLED HIMSELF "BLEEKER BILL"--HIS CRASH-PAD MUST BE ON THAT ONE-BLOCK STREET!


WHILE HE RACES TO BLEEKER STREET... IN A ROUNDABOUT WAY TO AVOID PURSUIT... I'LL CUT HIM OFF--
AND COUNT ON THE SCARE-LEGEND OF THE BATMAN TO CUT HIM DOWN!



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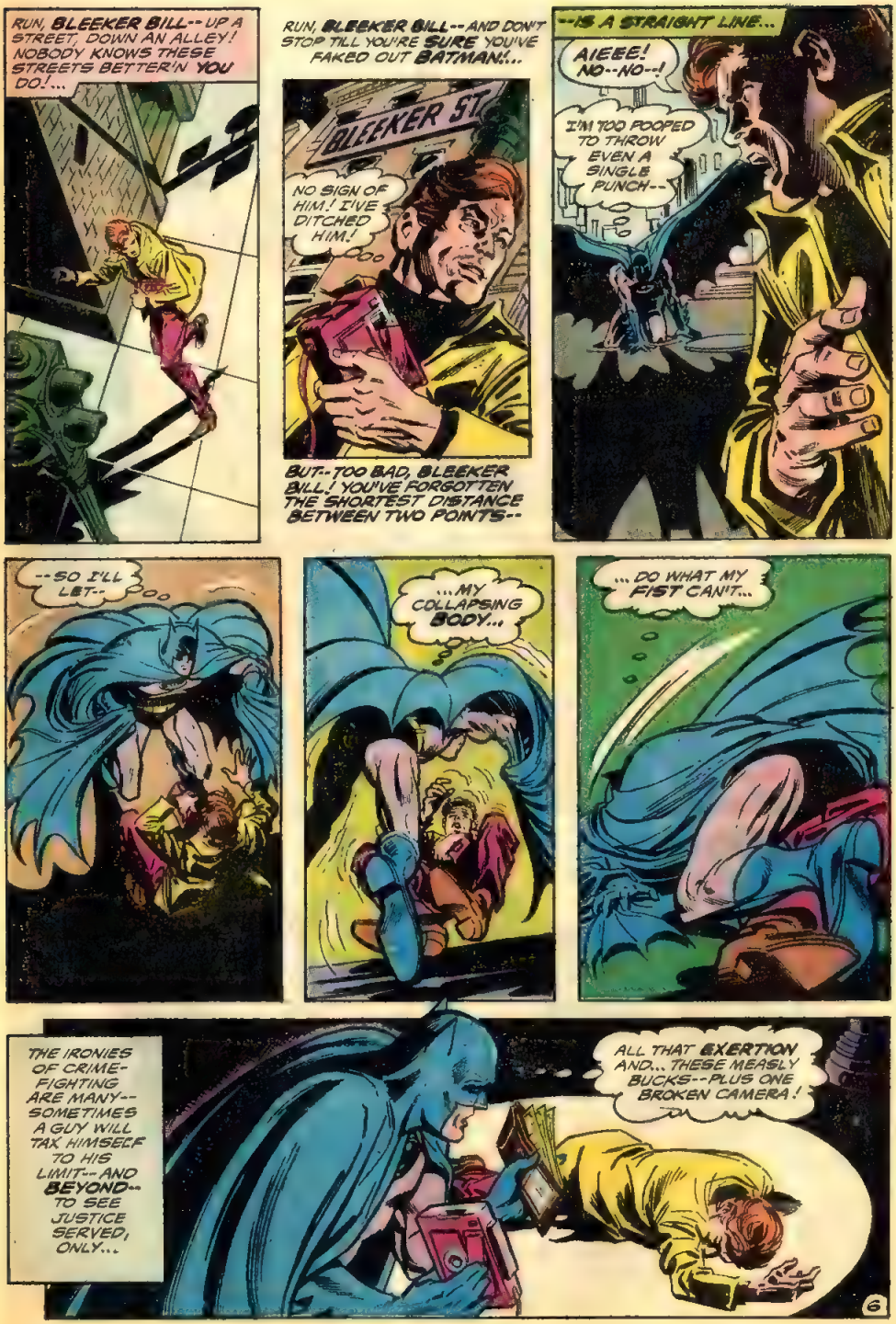
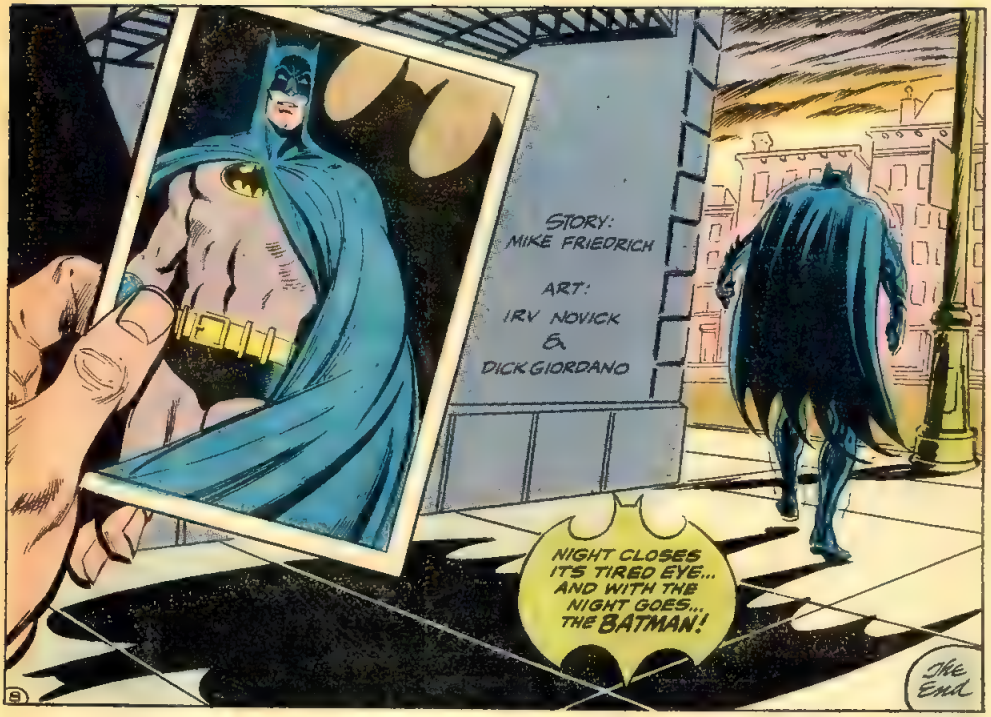

RUN, BLEEKER BILL-- UP A STREET, DOWN AN ALLEY! NOBODY KNOWS THESE STREETS BETTER'N YOU DO!...
RUN, BLEEKER BILL-- AND DON'T STOP TILL YOU'RE SURE YOU'VE FAKED OUT BATMAN!...
BLEEKER ST.
NO SIGN OF HIM! I'VE DITCHED HIM!
BUT-- TOO BAD, BLEEKER BILL! YOU'VE FORGOTTEN THE SHORTEST DISTANCE BETWEEN TWO POINTS--
--IS A STRAIGHT LINE...
AIEEE! NO--NO--!
I'M TOO POOPED TO THROW EVEN A SINGLE PUNCH--
--SO I'LL LET--
...MY COLLAPSING BODY...
...DO WHAT MY FIST CAN'T...
THE IRONIES OF CRIME-FIGHTING ARE MANY-- SOMETIMES A GUY WILL TAX HIMSELF TO HIS LIMIT-- AND BEYOND-- TO SEE JUSTICE SERVED, ONLY...
ALL THAT EXERTION AND... THESE MEASLY BUCKS-- PLUS ONE BROKEN CAMERA!
6

SOON...
HE'LL NEVER KNOW I REPAIRED THE CAMERA! BEING A CAMERA BUG HAS HELPED MY CRIME-LAB WORK--AND IT'S SERVING ANOTHER PURPOSE!
MUGGER CAUGHT... IMPRISONED!
HUH? WHA--?
HE WANTS ME TO POSE FOR HIM--?!
CLICK!



n.p.p. presents:

THE NEW!

THE DIFFERENT!

A G.I. YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER!

Dear Editor:

I just bought *Batman* #219 and, having finished reading it only moments ago, feel I ought to write you about it. Why? Because it is undoubtedly one of the finest *Batman* comics I've read in years. My collection of *Detective* and *Batman* numbers over 200 different issues, but few of them excited me as much as "Death Casts the Deciding Vote" and "The Silent Night of the Batman!"

"Death Casts the Deciding Vote" was written in the first person style, which immediately set it off as special; this style brought a sort of closeness to *Batman* and his thoughts that isn't achieved in the normal method of story-telling. The divided splash panel caught my attention right away, and my interest was sustained through the last panel. True, the bit about throwing the costume out as an "explanation" of panel 3, page 1 was a bit phoney... but that's my only complaint. Otherwise, I'd be content to have *Batman* stories of this calibre all the time. And, oddly enough, I didn't miss *Robin* at all! In fact, it just occurred to me as I write this that he didn't appear *anywhere* in issue #219!

"The Silent Night of the Batman" was totally different, yet captivating in every way. It carried with it the magic aura of good feeling that I associate with Christmas, a touch of sentimentality, the mysterious image of *Batman* that I love, and a charm that is not present in enough *Batman* tales. Neal Adams is perfect for drawing the *Cowled Crusader,* and Dick Giordano's inks complement the pencils beautifully. Artistically, I couldn't ask for more on any comic strip.

A few miscellaneous comments: First, the idea of two stories in an issue is excellent, and quite fresh after years of 23-24 page yarns. I wouldn't want this to be the permanent format, but every few issues, it would be a nice change-of-pace. Second, I hope this "new" *Batman* will meet up with the *Joker* and some of his older costumed enemies. True, he is devoting his time to corruption and more down-to-earth crimes, but the *Joker* could be fitted into this world without much trouble.

—BILL SCHELLY, U. of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho

(Next issue goes book-length again with Dennis O'Neil's masterscript, "Carnival of the Cursed," an eerie tale that finds Batman *on the haunt in New Orleans. No plans for the* Joker *and/or his costumed cronies as yet, but they're bound to rear their ugly heads.*—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

Batman #219 proves that you weren't just talking through your editorial hat when you promised us a newer, more exciting *Caped Crusader.* This issue presented your readers with the respective talents of Neal Adams, Irv Novick, Mike Friedrich, Frank Robbins, and Dick Giordano, as well as a 17-year-old DC Extra and a full 27 pages of reading material, excluding the lettercol. Match *that,* competitors!

Mr. Robbins' "Death Casts the Deciding Vote" was very satisfying, with its intriguing delve into the world of politics. At last Bruce Wayne and *Batman* are being treated as two different individuals: Wayne is the man, and *Batman* the legend. Very effective!

Meanwhile, Friedrich's "Silent Night of the Batman" was the most beautiful Christmas story I have ever seen published in the comics magazine medium. The individual vignettes were real and touching. The scripting and artwork presented terrific insight; the story's theme was inspirational. I feel nothing but admiration for a team of professionals like yourselves, who dare to break from the traditional super-hero mold to present such a meaningful and thought-provoking story. I reverently wish you all the best of luck and the happiest holiday season imaginable.

—STEVE BEERY, Alma, Mich.

(Your wish for the happiest of holiday seasons was fulfilled with the overwhelmingly joyous reception accorded Batman *#219. There were a few sour notes, but before we tune in on one, let us carry on with another blowing of our own horn.*—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

It seems like the *Batman* is here to stay!

Batman #219 brought the much-maligned *Caped Crusader* out from under the heavy mass of garbage piled up upon the *Batman* legend by the poor quality stories of the fifties and early sixties and the transformation of the 1964 *New Look* into the 1966 (ugh) *Camp Look* which killed a good effort by you and your crew to put some life into *Batman.*

First, there was the cover and the cover story. The cover was a brilliant, if not misleading, work by Neal Adams. I should have known when the cover has such a scene on it, in which the hero is in a position which for him is impossible to get out of, that it should be treated as a symbolic cover.

Now, the cover story. "Death Casts the Deciding Vote" was a nice, uncomplicated story. It gave Bruce Wayne a chance to show off his ingenuity by having the *Batman* and Bruce appear at the same time!

But, now, the second story! "The Silent Night of the Batman" was a definite move in the right story direction. I found it to be a very moving piece—*Alley Award* stuff, I'd say. The more-cynical-than-usual *Batman* reluctantly accompanying the Gotham police in the Christmas spirit while waiting for the inevitable call for action, unaware that his spirit is busy keeping the peace in old Gotham. It was a beau-

tiful statement and everyone involved with this issue should take a well-deserved bow.

—JAMES HAGGENMILLER, Jersey City, N.J.

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

Perhaps my hopes for the February *Batman* were too high. They were certainly soaring from the spell of the December *Batman,* which I regarded as nothing less than the best comic magazine ever to hit the market. So *Batman* is finally getting involved, I said. At last he has left his tiring years of super-science to others, and is now again concerned with the common man on the streets. Again he is the man of a thousand faces, living with crime and fighting it at its roots. Finally he is renewing his origin and living up to his namesake. I said.

But suddenly came the February *Batman.* And, I said, what happened to the streets? Where is the common man, where even is nighttime, the time of mystery, the time of the bat? Where is the common criminal? Certainly none of these is to be found on an airplane headed for Washington, D.C. Politics on the national level is no place for a thief, for a mugger or a murderer. Then why is the *Batman* there, if his cause is now with the dangers facing everyday people?

It seems that Frank Robbins' idea for the story was that social activity involves political activity; that anyone, including the *Batman,* who fights for social justice will inevitably be drawn into the arena of politics. Perhaps this is true; but as a story featuring the creature of the thousand eyes, this idea is found wanting. Here we are asked to believe that because politics is the official record of the American dream, it is just as gripping, just as immediate as day-to-day life in the city.

But surely there is enough drama going on in the streets where the line is thin between life and death, where the fight concerns everyone who enters a city, to draw involvement for both the *Batman* and the reader. And surely anyone who has been to a political event knows the yawns hanging over every word, has felt the heavy eyebrows of the speaker. And surely Frank Robbins has imagination enough to pit nightman against night-fears without going into the overgrown complexities (such as a blown-up *Batman* suit flying over Washington D.C.) as he has created in the February *Batman.*

Robbins proved beyond doubt his imagination in the December *Batman.* My trust still lies with him; but the new *Batman* needs city streets—or at least darkness and mystery—to operate in, and involved stories will no longer work. So I leave my trust with Editor Schwartz to see that the *Batman* is guided back to the quiet excitement of the city.

—EDWARD BRODERICK, Arlington Ht., Ill.

(To negate the negative—as Johnny Mercer once advised us—accentuate the positive, as we promptly proceed to do next.—Editor)

* * * * * *

Dear Editor:

Batman #219 was an excellent issue. Your whole staff deserves congratulations. Congratulations. This is, in my opinion, the finest comic you have produced since the price rose to 15¢.

The cover depicting a scene from "Death Casts the Deciding Vote" was superbly done by Neal Adams. Notice the lack of balloons, the simplicity of the idea, and the excellent coloring, not to mention the well-placed title. Good show.

"Death Casts the Deciding Vote!" A good title. A good plot by Frank Robbins. I like the idea that the bulk of the story occurred in the confines of a plane, rather than somewhere in Gotham City, then back to Wayne Manor, then to the police station, then to a giant statue factory, and back to Wayne Manor for a lousy closing pun by Dick Grayson (glad he's gone). This is usually the pattern of a regular *Batman* story. Ah, but this is no ordinary story. Thank you for a *fine* story, Frank Robbins.

The art was excellent, as it has been ever since Dick Giordano joined the team, and Giella left. Giella's inks didn't do much for Novick's pencils. (Don't get me wrong! I liked Giella-inks when over Infantino-pencils.)

Now for the second story. I usually don't like two stories in one issue. It breeds incompetence. But this time I was delighted. "The Silent Night of the Batman!" Excellent title. Excellent cinematic art by the incomparable Neal Adams. I immediately sensed it was written by Mike Friedrich. He really knows what the fans want, being one himself for many years. Good work. I can only say that the reaction to this story will be one of ecstasy. I know mine was.

—ROB MEUER, Madison, Wis.

(For possibly the first time ever, there was unanimous *approval of a* Batman *story! To round out this column, we offer a sampling of these praiseworthy comments.*—Editor)

* * * * * *

"The Silent Night of the Batman" epitomized the feelings of Gotham City toward *Batman.* It is because of stories like this that the *Caped Criminologist* has risen far above the multitude of comic magazine characters to become an almost legendary figure. I firmly believe that every major city could use a *Batman.*

—MIKE W. BARR, Akron, Ohio

* * * * * *

As I write this, the days are growing steadily colder, there is talk of snow, Christmas decorations are appearing with amazing rapidity, and my feelings toward the trepidations of life are mellowing greatly. I have just finished reading your wonderful Christmas story, "Silent Night of the Batman." To a guy in a strange city, trying to get some minute amount of education pounded into his head, and facing hardships he never knew existed, it was a bit of inspiration that just can't be found anywhere else.

—JOHN WORKMAN, JR., Vancouver, Wash.

* * * * * *

There just are not words to describe "The Silent Night of the Batman." It is, without a doubt, the BEST *Batman* story I have read in my 5 years of uninterrupted reading. It was drawn...superbly. I can't even state a "best" panel or page; they were all top-notch. Of the 38 panels in the story, only 9 needed "word balloons", proving that they were not necessary for this fine piece of work. If the story had been written to accomodate 15 pages (or more), I shudder to think of the consequences. It was perfect...just as it was ...positively NO flaws. I wish that "The Silent Night of the Batman" would turn out to be non-fiction... soon.

—JEFF RISTINE, Ann Arbor, Mich.

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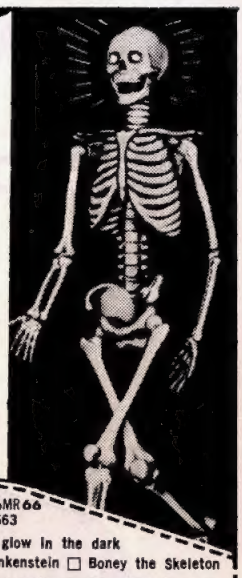

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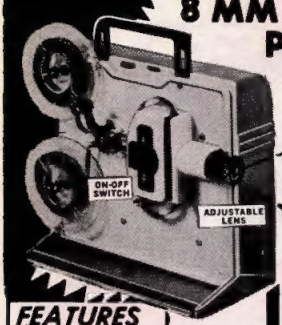

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